

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1 1. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,
5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination;
8 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
9 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
10 IP address when the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
11 destination; and
12 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement, and if so then providing an announcement to the calling party.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so then collecting digits from the calling party.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein query is launched to the database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement and digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so, then providing an announcement to the calling party; and collecting digits from the calling party.

9. The method according to claim 1 further including the steps of: determining if the routing the call in accordance with said mapping yields a busy trigger, and if so, then establishing an alternate call routing number destination by querying said database; and mapping the alternate called party routing number to a physical port in the network when the alternate called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to an IP address when the called party's routing number corresponds to a packet-based call destination; and routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein the routing plans in the database exists to support circuit based destinations and is augmented to handle packet-based destinations.

1 11. The method according to claim 1 wherein the database and the routing plans
2 contained therein are entirely new.

1 12. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,
5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to (a) obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination, and (b) obtain an indication whether the
8 calling party should receive an announcement;

9 providing the announcement when the query indicates that an announcement
10 should be provided;

11 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
12 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
13 IP address with the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
14 destination; and

15 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 14. The method according to claim 12 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 15. The method according to claim 12 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 16. The method according to claim 12 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 17. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,
5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to (a) obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination, and (b) obtain an indication whether
8 digits should be collected from the calling party;

9 collecting digits from the calling party when the query indicates digits should be
10 collected;

11 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
12 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
13 IP address when the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
14 destination; and

15 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 18. The method according to claim 17 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 19. The method according to claim 17 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 20. The method according to claim 17 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 21. The method according to claim 17 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 22. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,
5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to (a) obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination, and (b) obtain an indication whether (i)
8 an announcement should be provided and (ii) digits should be collected from the calling
9 party;
10 providing the announcement when the query indicates that an announcement
11 should be provided;
12 collecting digits from the calling party when the query indicates digits should be
13 collected;
14 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
15 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
16 IP address when the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
17 destination; and
18 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping.

1 23. The method according to claim 22 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 24. The method according to claim 22 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as an packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 25. The method according to claim 22 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 26. The method according to claim 22 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 27. A technique for handling subscriber calls in a communications network
2 using a routing plan prescribed by the subscriber independent of the manner in which the
3 calls originate and terminate, comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in the network a call from a calling party dialed to a called party,
5 launching a query to database containing routing plans to obtain a called party
6 routing number for the called party in accordance with a subscriber routing plan that is
7 independent of call origination and termination;
8 mapping the called party routing number to a physical port in the network when
9 the called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched call destination; or to a
10 IP address with the called party routing number corresponds to a packet-based call
11 destination;
12 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping;
13 determining if the routing the call in accordance with said mapping yields a busy
14 trigger, and if so, then
15 establishing an alternate call routing number destination by querying said
16 database; and
17 mapping the alternate called party routing number to a physical port in the
18 network when the alternate called party routing number corresponds to a circuit-switched
19 call destination; or to a IP address when the called party's routing number corresponds to
20 a packet-based call destination; and
21 routing the call to the call destination in accordance with the mapping of the
22 alternate called party number.

1 28. The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as a circuit-switched call having a packet-based destination.

1 29. The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as an packet-based call having a circuit-switched destination.

1 30. The method according to claim 27 wherein the call is received in the
2 network as an packet-based call having a packet based destination.

1 31. The method according to claim 27 wherein the query includes at least one
2 of the called party number and a number associated with the calling party.

1 32. The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement,
3 and if so then
4 providing an announcement to the calling party.

1 33. The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether digits should be collected from the calling party, and
3 if so then
4 collecting digits from the calling party.

1 34. The method according to claim 27 wherein query is launched to the
2 database to also determine whether the calling party should receive an announcement and
3 digits should be collected from the calling party, and if so, then
4 providing an announcement to the calling party; and
5 collecting digits from the calling party.
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